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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Training Workshop on Population Policies and
Sustainable Development: Food and Environment
29 June to 3 July 1997
Amman, Jordan

UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR WESTERN ASIA

23-03-2000

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FINAL REPORT

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized the Training Workshop on Population Policies and Sustainable Development: Food and Environment, which was held in Amman from 29 June to 3 July 1997. This activity was part of the Project on Population Policies in the Arab Countries being carried out by ESCWA with financing from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The Workshop was attended by trainees from ESCWA members and other Arab countries.

A. OBJECTIVES

2. The Workshop was the third in a series of training activities making up the Project on Population Policies in the Arab Countries. The objectives of the Workshop fall within the general objectives of the Project, which is aimed at supporting comprehensive population policies in the Arab countries in the context of their comprehensive national development programmes and in a manner compatible with the general objectives of the Second Amman Declaration on Population and Development (1993), the Arab Plan of Action for the Protection and Promotion of the Health of Children in the Arab World (Tunis, 1992) and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994).

3. The objectives of the Workshop can be summarized as follows:

(a) To develop the skills and capacities of technical staff in national population councils or commissions and similar institutions in the Arab States in the field of design, coordination, follow-up, evaluation and analysis of population programmes and policies;

(b) To give prominence to issues of population growth, food and environment;

(c) To provide training in computer program packages used in studying the relationships between population, on the one hand, and food and environment, on the other, and specifically: the Computerized System for Agricultural and Population Planning Assistance and Training (CAPPA) and A Knowledge-based Computer System for Training in Environmental Impacts of Agricultural Projects (ECOZONE);

(d) To enrich the participants' knowledge through a look at the experience of other countries in the field of population growth, food and environment.

B. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

4. At the opening session, the Chief of the ESCWA Population Section delivered a statement in which he welcomed the participants on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

C. ATTENDANCE

5. The Training Workshop was attended by 12 trainees, 9 of whom were from ESCWA member countries and areas (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territories, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen) and 3 from other Arab countries (Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia). It should be mentioned that 3 of the 12 trainees who attended the Workshop were women. The participants' names can be found in annex I.

D. AGENDA

6. The agenda for the Training Workshop was adopted in the form in which it appears in annex II to the present report.

II. LECTURES AND TRAINING IN COMPUTER PROGRAM PACKAGES

7. Those participating in the Workshop were provided with background papers on population growth, food and environment prepared by Mr. Jacques du Guerny, an ESCWA paper entitled "Population, food supply and environment in the Arab World", prepared by Mr. Abdul Rahim Ma'ayta, documentation of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the CAPP system and documentation on the ECOZONE system, as well as the CAPP and ECOZONE program packages. A list of documents and program packages can be found in annex III.

A. LECTURES

8. The following three lectures were given during the first day of the Workshop:

(a) Presentation and review of the mutual relationships between population growth and food throughout the world, by Mr. Jacques du Guerny, who subsequently conducted a discussion of this topic;

(b) Presentation and review of the mutual relationships between population growth and environment throughout the world, by Mr. Jacques du Guerny, who subsequently conducted a discussion of this topic;

(c) Review, by a representative of the ESCWA secretariat, of the paper entitled "Population, food supply and environment in the Arab World". This lecture was introduced by another representative of the ESCWA secretariat who conducted the related discussion.

B. TRAINING IN THE CAPP AND ECOZONE PROGRAM PACKAGES

9. Mr. Abdel-Aziz Ibrahim Abdel-Aziz, after presenting the CAPP system, turned to the practical application of the system, including the creation and comparison of population and agricultural development scenarios.

10. Mr. Abdel-Aziz Ibrahim Abdel-Aziz presented the ECOZONE system, which evaluates the impact of agricultural programmes and projects on the environment. He then proceeded to review a practical example relating to the development of North Sinai that included the relocation of 3 million Nile Valley inhabitants to North Sinai, examining the possible impact of that project.

III. ASSESSMENT OF THE WORKSHOP

11. An evaluation session was held at the end of the Workshop. The remarks of the participants can be summarized as follows:

(a) *Content of the programme*

The participants agreed that the content of the programme was suitable, inasmuch as it included not only lectures that focused on the mutual relationships between population, food and environment, but also training and practical applications illustrating the use of the CAPP and ECOZONE program packages.

(b) *Duration of the programme*

The participants felt that the duration of the programme was appropriate with respect to both the lectures and training in the program packages.

(c) *Programme timetable*

The participants stated that the programme timetable was suitable after being modified, i.e., 8 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. rather than the original 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(d) *Training method*

The participants commended the training method used for the Workshop, characterized by being:

- (i) Understandable and well designed for guaranteeing the transmission of information;
- (ii) Practical and helpful in ensuring a proper grasp of the material;
- (iii) Instructive and helpful in facilitating the subsequent application of the information;
- (iv) Based on participation and experimentation.

(e) *Training and applications dealt with at greater length*

The participants agreed that training in the use of the CAPP system was dealt with to a greater extent during the Workshop.

(f) *Desire to participate in more highly specialized programmes*

The participants expressed the desire to attend a longer training session devoted specifically to the CAPP system.

(g) *Organization of the Workshop, travel arrangements and accommodation*

The participants expressed their satisfaction concerning the efforts made to organize the Workshop, particularly with regard to the existence of data-show equipment and an independent computer for each participant. They were also pleased with the coordination and preparations prior to the Workshop and with the accommodation and travel arrangements.

(h) *Results achieved by the end of the programme*

The participants reported that the following results were achieved:

- (i) Enhancement of their awareness and enrichment of their knowledge of issues relating to population growth, food and environment;
- (ii) Acquisition of personal skills in the use of the CAPP and ECOZONE packages.

(i) *Participants' suggestions*

The participants recommended the following:

- (i) Advance distribution of Workshop documents to participants;
- (ii) Simultaneous interpretation of the lectures into Arabic;
- (iii) Abstinance from smoking during lectures and during use of equipment;
- (iv) Addition of the names of participants to the ESCWA mailing list.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. DELEGATIONS FROM PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND AREAS

Jordan

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Annex II

AGENDA

Sunday, 29 June 1997

9 - 9:30 a.m.	Opening
9.30 - 10 a.m	Break
10 a.m. - noon	Population growth and food: Jacques du Guerny
Noon - 1.30 p.m.	Population growth and environment: Jacques du Guerny
1.30 - 4 p.m.	Lunch break
4 - 6 p.m.	Population, food supply and environment in the Arab world: ESCWA

Monday, 30 June 1997

8 - 10 a.m.	Presentation of the CAPP system: Abdel-Aziz Ibrahim Abdel-Aziz
10 - 10.15 a.m.	Break
10.15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.	CAPP system: Population module
12.15 - 12.30 p.m.	Break
12.30 - 2.30 p.m.	CAPP system: Population module
(continued)	

Tuesday, 1 July 1997

8 - 10 a.m.	CAPP system: Macroeconomy module
10 - 10.15 a.m.	Break
10.15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.	CAPP system: Demand module
12.15 - 12.30 p.m.	Break
12.30 - 2.30 p.m.	CAPP system: Sources/utilization module

Wednesday, 2 July 1997

8 - 10 a.m.	Sustainable development and environment
10 - 10.15 a.m.	Break
10.15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.	Presentation of the ECOZONE system
12.15 - 12.30 p.m.	Break
12.30 - 2.30 p.m.	ECOZONE system: Environmental impact assessment

Thursday, 3 July 1997

8 - 11 a.m.	ECOZONE system
11 - 11.30 a.m.	Break
11.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	Evaluation of the Workshop and closing ceremony

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. Provisional agenda
2. Population, food supply and environment in the Arab world
3. Food requirements and population growth
4. Computerized System for Agricultural and Population Planning Assistance and Training
5. CAPP system program diskettes
6. ECOZONE, A Knowledge-based Computer System for Training in Environmental Impacts of Agricultural Projects (FAO Policy Analysis Division - Training Service)
7. ECOZONE system program diskettes
8. Final report